

ABSTRACT

An object of this invention is to appropriately guide a user to obtain a more adequate search result. This invention comprises the steps
5 of: specifying a search word (and/or phrase) included in a search condition designated by the user; obtaining evaluation data that is at least either of a score based on an appearance frequency and the number of documents to be searched that include the search word or its synonym, for each of the search word and its synonym; presenting the user with
10 search word and its synonym and the corresponding evaluation data in a manner in which one or plurality of search words and its synonyms are selectable; and presenting the user with data concerning a document to be searched that includes the search word or its synonym selected by the user. Thus, it becomes possible to carry out a search processing using
15 not only search word included in the search condition but also its synonym, and furthermore, because the evaluation data representing relevancy with the documents to be searched is presented to guide the user as to the selection of words, the retrieval adequate for the user is carried out.